## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-20 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. By the above amendment, Claims 1 and 9 have been amended and Claims 13-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-12 are now pending in this application. All of the amendments can be supported by the figures of the present application as originally filed, and therefore no new matter is added therein.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,329,203 to Jeong (hereinafter "Jeong") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,040,973 to Okamoto et al. (hereinafter "Okamoto") and U.S. Patent No. 4,767,965 to Yamano et al. (hereinafter "Yamano"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Jeong, Okamoto and Yamano, does not render the present invention obvious. The amended claim 1 in the present invention has disclosed an auxiliary anode disposed between the anode and the cathode and being parallel to the cathode, wherein said auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of said plates of glass. That is to say, the auxiliary anode is attached to one side of the plates of glass, and the anode and the cathode are disposed in another side of the plates of glass. This configuration is shown in Figure 3 of the present application.

In contrast to this claimed configuration, Jeong discloses a flat cold cathode fluorescent lamp which includes front and rear plates separated by spacers, and an auxiliary electrode provided lengthwise on each lower side of the spacer, thereby realizing uniformly luminous pictures. Referring to Figure 4 of Jeong, the auxiliary electrode 6 is provided on the lower side of spacer 5 in contact with phosphor layer 2a. As recognized within the Office Action, Jeong does not teach that the auxiliary anode is parallel to the cathode. Jeong teaches that the auxiliary electrode 6 is used for minimizing picture smears due to luminance around the spacers. [Jeong, col. 2, lines 35-44] However, the auxiliary electrode in the present invention is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass, not to the inner surface of the enclosure chamber in which the anode and the cathode are disposed. In addition, the auxiliary electrode in the present invention is attracting the electrons emitted from the cathode 12. The emitting electrons are accelerated through the formed electrical field between the anode 11 and the cathode 12. Because the auxiliary electrode is attracting the electrons emitted from the cathode 12 uniformly,

the light-vibration problem can be solved and the illumination brightness uniformity can be improved as well. Accordingly, Jeong does not teach that the auxiliary anode is parallel to the cathode. Jeong also does not teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass.

Okamoto discloses a method of driving a field emission cold cathode device and a field emission cold cathode electron gun. Referring to the figures of Okamoto, the field emission cold cathode device includes the emitter 1, the gate electrode 3, and the anode electrode 5 in a plurality of combinations. Okamoto does not teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass.

Yamano teaches a flat luminescent lamp for liquid crystalline display. Yamano also does not teach that an auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass.

As discussed above, Jeong does not teach that the auxiliary anode is parallel to the cathode. Jeong also does not teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass. Okamoto also does not teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass. Yamano also does not teach that an auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass. Accordingly, neither Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano nor their combination teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either of the plates of glass. Further, neither Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano nor their combination teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of a chamber of the cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp.

The auxiliary anode in the present invention is attached to an outer surface of the enclosure chamber, and the printed circuit board 16 can also be disposed on the backside of either of the plates of glass. Therefore, a pattern of the auxiliary anode 15 can be directly formed thereon. [Specification, page 6, lines 22-24] Accordingly, an outer auxiliary anode in the present invention can be applied to any cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp, and need not change any process of producing a cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp. Accordingly, the cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp of the present invention can entirely reduce cost and required time, over the teachings of the cited prior art.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to a cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp. The cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp of Claim 1 comprises an enclosure chamber sealed by two reciprocally parallel plates of glass and containing a gas therein, an anode and a cathode disposed in said enclosure chamber, wherein said cathode is parallel to said anode, an auxiliary anode disposed between said anode and said cathode and being parallel to said cathode, wherein said auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either said plates of glass and a printed circuit

board for providing a voltage for said anode and said cathode. As discussed above, neither Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano nor their combination teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of either said plates of glass. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano and their combination.

Claims 2-8 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 2-8 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 9 is directed to a structure of a field emission electrode adapted to be used for a cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp comprising an anode, a cathode being parallel to said anode and an auxiliary anode disposed between said anode and said cathode and being parallel to said cathode. It is further specified in Claim 9 that said auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of a chamber of said cold cathode fluorescent flat lamp. As discussed above, neither Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano nor their combination teach that the auxiliary anode is attached to an outer surface of a chamber of said cathode fluorescent flat lamp. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano and their combination.

Claims 10-12 are all dependent on the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, the independent Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Jeong, Okamoto, Yamano and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 10-12 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 13-20 have been cancelled by the above amendment.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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